

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 009484

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: SPRING 1978 DPC MINISTERIAL

1. BARRING UNFORESEEN MAJOR EVENTS REQUIRING MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION, WE WOULD LIKE TO KEEP FOCUS OF MAY 18-19 DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING MAINLY ON THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM. WE HOPE THAT THE FINAL POSITIVE DECISION ON THE NATO AWACS PROGRAM WILL HAVE BEEN TAKEN PREVIOUSLY IN THE DPC IN PERMANENT SESSION, WITH THE ACTION ONLY TO BE NOTED BY MINISTERS. WE SEE NO OTHER ACTIONS THAT WOULD WARRANT MAJOR ATTENTION BY MINISTERS.

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2. PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM FOR ENDORSEMENT AT THE SUMMIT WILL CLEARLY BE THE MAIN TASK OF DPC MINISTERS FOR THE MAY MEETING. WHILE IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MOST POINTS OF THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM WILL HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT BEFORE THE MAY 18-19 MEETING, EACH OF THE TEN PROGRAM AREAS WILL DESERVE DISCUS-

SION AND A FEW MAJOR POINTS MAY REQUIRE DECISION. EVEN IN THE CASE OF A FULLY AGREED PAPER COMING TO MINISTERS WE WOULD WISH TO ENCOURAGE A RATHER FULL DISCUSSION SO THAT THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM WILL BEAR A MINISTERIAL CHARACTER, AND SO THAT HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION WILL BE DRAWN TO THE SPECIFICS, INCLUDING COSTS AND THE NATURE OF COMMITMENT REQUIRED.

3. HENCE, WE HOPE TO AVOID INCLUSION OF NORMALLY USEFUL BUT TOPICALLY UNRELATED ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. IN ITS BAREST FORM WE SEE AGENDA AS:

A. STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN, EUROGROUP.

B. REPORT BY DPC IN PERMANENT SESSION, BRIEFING THEIR ESTABLISHMENT OF FORCE GOALS 1979-1984 - TO BE NOTED BY MINISTERS.

C. REPORT ON NATO LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM - FOR DISCUSSION BY MINISTERS.

D. REPORT ON AWACS - TO BE NOTED BY MINISTERS.

E. STATEMENT BY SECGENERAL ON MBFR.

F. RESTRICTED SESSION.

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G. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

H. COMMUNIQUE.

WE BELIEVE SECGENERAL COULD OPEN MINISTERIAL WITH BRIEF REFERENCE TO STATUS OF ITEMS WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN ON AGENDA, FOR INFORMATION OF MINISTERS.

4. IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE OF SUCCESSFUL PRESENTATION OF THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM AT THE SUMMIT, MISSION SHOULD DISCUSS WITH LUNS THE DESIRABILITY OF CLEARING DECKS FOR MEANINGFUL MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION OF LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM 18-19 MAY.

CHRISTOPHER

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